18th March 1931]

Throwing of stones on picketers by the police at Frazer's Bridge road.

* 656 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether on Thursday evening (12th February 1931) policemen threw stones on peaceful picketers and sightseers while picketing was going on at Frazer's Bridge road at about 5 p.m.; and

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any steps to call for information on the matter and what action they have taken to deal with the offending policemen ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government have already satisfied themselves that the allegation is false. The second part of this clause does not therefore arise.

Memorandum from the Madras Piecegoods Association regarding police excesses in Godown street.

* 657 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. K. Reddi : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he received a communication on or about 5th February 1931 from the Madras Piecegoods Association condemning police excesses by the free use of lathis on peaceful picketers of foreign cloth-shops in Godown street and also on innocent bystanders, stating that it is the presence of the police at picketing places that draws crowds, and requesting the Government to put a stop to the merciless belabouring of the unresisting volunteers and to the lathi regime;

(*b*) whether he proposes to comply with this request ; and

(*c*) if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government do not admit the correctness of either the allegations or the implications contained in the Association's letter and do not therefore propose to take any action upon it.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Depressed Classes

Alleged ill-treatment of depressed classes in Devakottai subdivision.

658 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur A. M. M. Murugappa Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any reports either from the Collector of Ramnad or from the Divisional Officer of Devakottai regarding the alleged ill-treatment of the depressed classes in the Devakottai subdivision ; and

(*b*) whether there have been any cases of actual ill-treatment of the depressed classes in the said area and if so, whether he will be pleased to place before the House the circumstances and details of the alleged ill-treatment ?

A.—(*a*) A report was obtained from the District Magistrate of Ramnad on a memorial submitted to Government complaining of the ill-treatment of the depressed classes of Devakottai.

(*b*) No case of ill-treatment has been reported by the District Magistrate.